

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 195292 TOSEC 200088

EXDIS

FOLLOWING MANILA 11733 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CINCPAC
06 AUG 76

QUOTE S E C R E T MANILA 11733

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP, OVIP (ROBINSON, C.W.)

SUBJ: MARCOS-ROBINSON MEETING AUGUST 6, 1976

1. GOP HAS USED VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON
TO PRESS U.S. FOR MORE EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF ITS
OBLIGATIONS UNDER US-RP MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. PRESIDENT
MARCOS MADE CLEAR IN MEETING WITH DEPSEC AND IN AIDE
MEMOIRE (SEPTTEL) THAT THIS STATEMENT IS SOUGHT PRIMARILY
IN CONNECTION WITH PHILIPPINE CLAIMS TO REED BANK AREA.
ALTHOUGH MARCOS DID NOT RPT NOT EXPLICITLY ASK FOR SUPPORT
OF PHILIPPINE CLAIM, HE STATED THAT HIS COMING NEGOTIATIONS
WITH VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE MADE
MUCH MORE DIFFICULT IF U.S. TAKES POSITION THAT IT WILL
NOT CONSIDER AN ATTACK ON PHILIPPINE FORCES OR VESSELS IN

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THAT AREA ACTIONABLE UNDER ARTICLES IV AN V OF MDT.

2. MARCOS SAID PROGRESS ON MILITARY BASES NEGOTIATIONS WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO SATISFACTORY U.S. RESPONSE ON THIS ISSUE. ALTHOUGH HE ORIGINALLY INDICATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE "SUSPENDED" PENDING U.S. REPLY TO GOP AIDE MEMOIRE, HE SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED THAT TALKS COULD CONTINUE "ON DETAILS" BUT THAT MAJOR POLITICAL DECISIONS WAOULD AWAIT U.S. STATEMENT ON OUR MDT OBLIGATIONS.

3. U.S. REPS ATTEMPTED TO PLACE VARIOUS U.S. STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT IN APPROPRIATE CONTEXT AND TO STRESS CONSTANCY OF U.S. DEFENSE COMMITMENTS. DEPSEC ALSO STRESSED WILLINGNESS U.S. TO CONTINUE MILITARY BASES NEGOTIATIONS IN GOOD FAITH AND TO REACH AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MARCOS GENERALLY BRUSHED ASIDE EXPLANATIONS OF U.S. POSITION AND SAID THAT THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT "AMBIGUITY" WHICH NEEDED TO BE CLARIFIED.

4. U.S. REPS POINTED OUT THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GOP OFFICIALS CASTING DOUBTS ON VALIDITY OF U.S. DEFENSE OBLIGATIONS WEAKENED PHIL HAND IN DEALING WITH OTHER CLAIMANTS TO REED BANK AREA. MARCOS SAID HE HAD ORDERED ALL OFFICIALS TO REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT.

5. MARCOS, ROMULO AND ENRILE ALL REHASHED WITH SOME SHOW OF BITTERNESS THE ALLEGED U.S. FAILURE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR NEED FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHEN MUSLIM ATTACKS BEGAN IN MINDANAO IN 1972. THEY STRESSED THAT THIS FAILURE GAVE THEM CAUSE TO DOUBT THAT, IN A FUTURE CRISIS, U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO ASSIST THE PHILIPPINES.

6. WHILE DEPSEC WAS TALKING PRIVATELY WITH MARCOS, ROMULO TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT TO HUMMEL AND SULLIVAN THAT USSR HAD BACKED VIETNAMESE CLAIMS TO SPRATLEYS. HE SUGGESTED U.S. SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR PHILIPPINE CLAIMS. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, PURSUE THIS LINE AND ENRILE INDICATED ACCEPTANCE OF FACT THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO TREAT AREA AS DISPUTED TERRITORY.

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